

2015 FOOTBALL GUIDE ISSUE

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BY ROB HAVENS '88

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**On the Cover:** Myles Garrett—"myles" ahead of the rest. Photo by Rob Havens '88.



# Howdy Ags!

Whoop! Are you ready for some football? It's finally here and I could not be more excited to watch our Aggies compete. In this issue you will find several pictures I took at Fall Camp. The media gets to shoot at the beginning of most practices and it gives us the opportunity to get a glimpse of what we can expect this fall. It's basically like going to your favorite restaurant and having the waiters bring by your favorite food and then letting you taste a little bit of it before sending you on your way. As a result, I am hungrier than ever to watch our Ags play this year.

The talent level Coach Sumlin and his staff have compiled is really something to behold. The Aggies have more depth and talent than they have had in a long time. In order to compete in the best division in college football, it requires time to recruit and a staff that can coach them up. Although the Ags are not currently at the top of the polls in the preseason, I believe they will move up pretty quickly once our team takes the field.

In this issue you will find a preview of our team heading into the season, along with short previews of each of our opponents. I would like to thank the sports information directors that contributed by giving us the scoop on their respective teams.

The Aggies opened their schedule at NRG stadium in a neutral site contest with the Arizona State Sun Devils. Kyle Allen played his high school ball just a stone's throw away from their campus.

After taking care of the Sun Devils, the Aggies return home to reopen the best stadium in college football. The world's largest tailgate party is planned and history will be made as the Ags take the field in the \$485 million dollar renovated facility. It seems like only yesterday I was shooting pictures of the ground-breaking in the north end zone. It's truly amazing to see the transformation.

Our soccer team has already gotten a couple of wins under their belt and you can see pictures of the new team inside. Our volleyball team challenged each other in their annual Maroon & White scrimmage, and we got shots of that as well.

We also caught up with Eric Hyman's first head coaching hire at Texas A&M—Coach Mark Weaver, the new women's tennis coach. We wish him luck as the ladies hit the court soon!

I hope you enjoy this issue and, as always, be sure to tell your friends and family about Aggieland Illustrated!

Gig'em Ags!

*Rob '88*





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BY CARLSON

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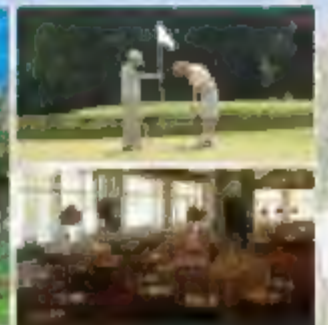


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snapshot







## “pounding in goals”...

Sophomore sensation Haley Pounds was named SEC Offensive Player after week one when she helped the Aggies score five consecutive goals in two games. She had four assists and one goal in the Ags' first two victories of the season. Pounds became only the 11th Aggie to post three assists in one game. After losing several key players from last year's team, Pounds has stepped it up and is ready to pace the Aggie offense in their quest for the cup.

Photos by Rob Havens '88.









## “set” to break more records...

Last year, Stephanie Aiple became the most decorated freshman in the history of Aggie Volleyball. Aiple earned AVCA Honorable Mention

All-America, SEC All-Freshman Team, and Texas A&M Co-Best Offensive Player Award. The long list of accolades she received last year is just the beginning for the talented sophomore.

Photo by Rob Havens '88.





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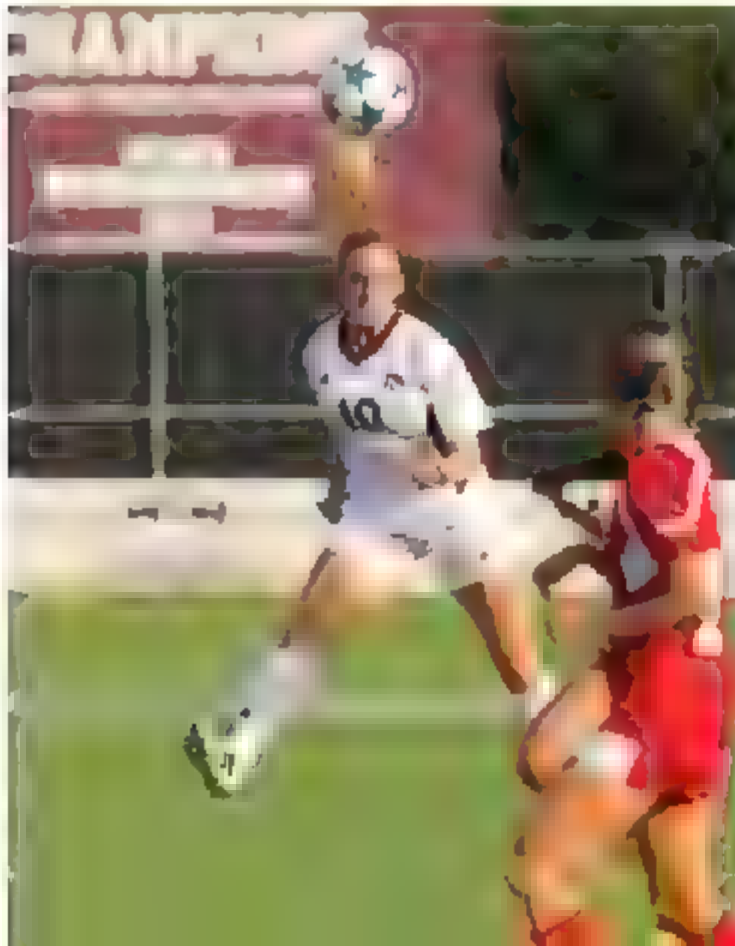
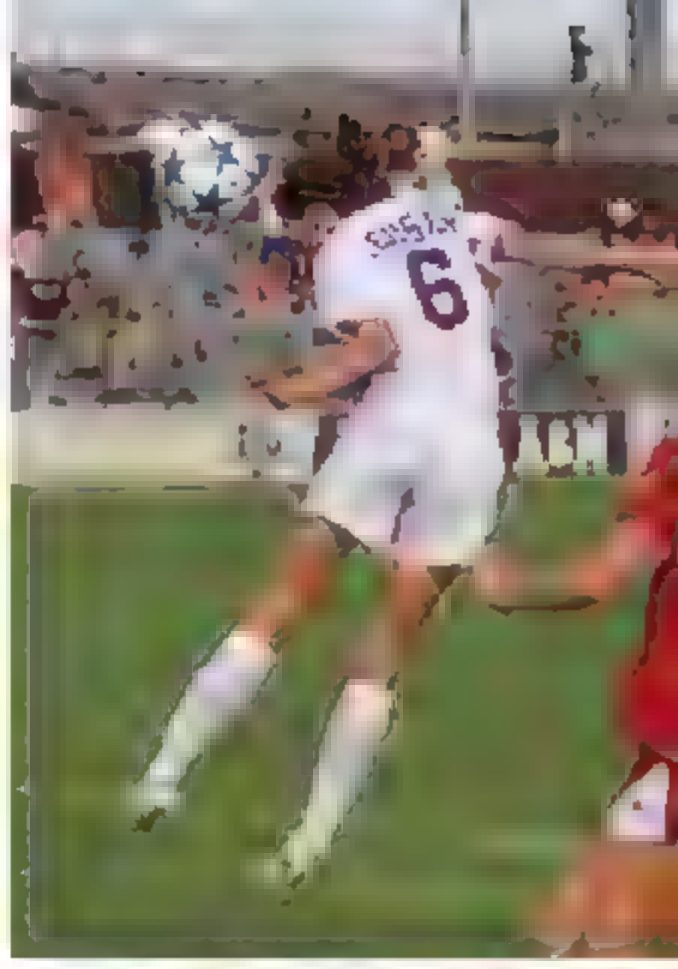
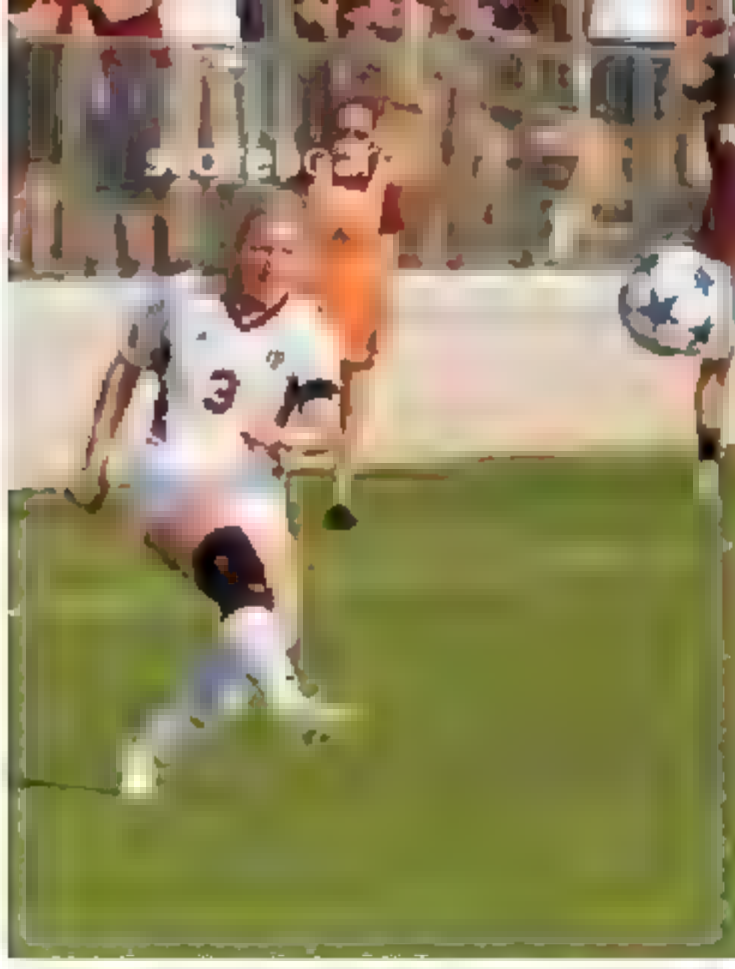
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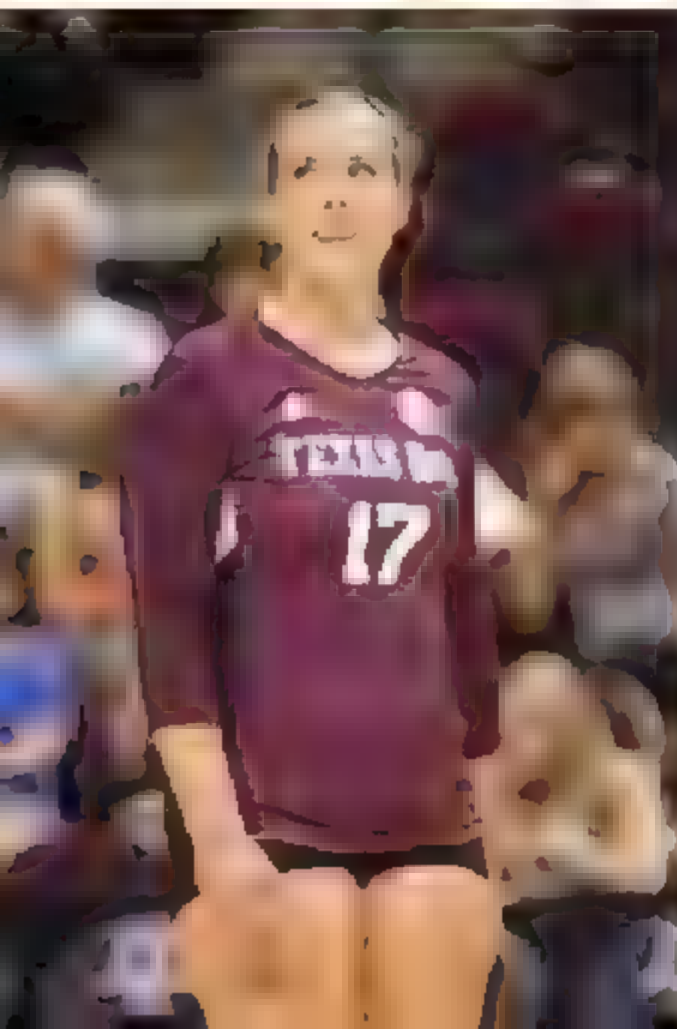
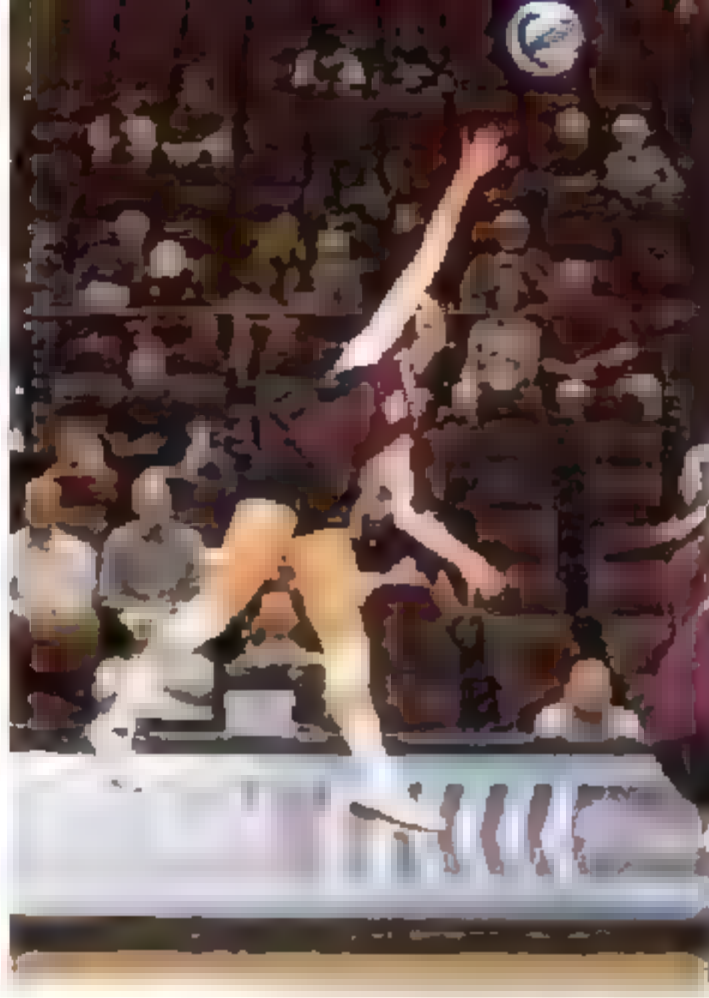
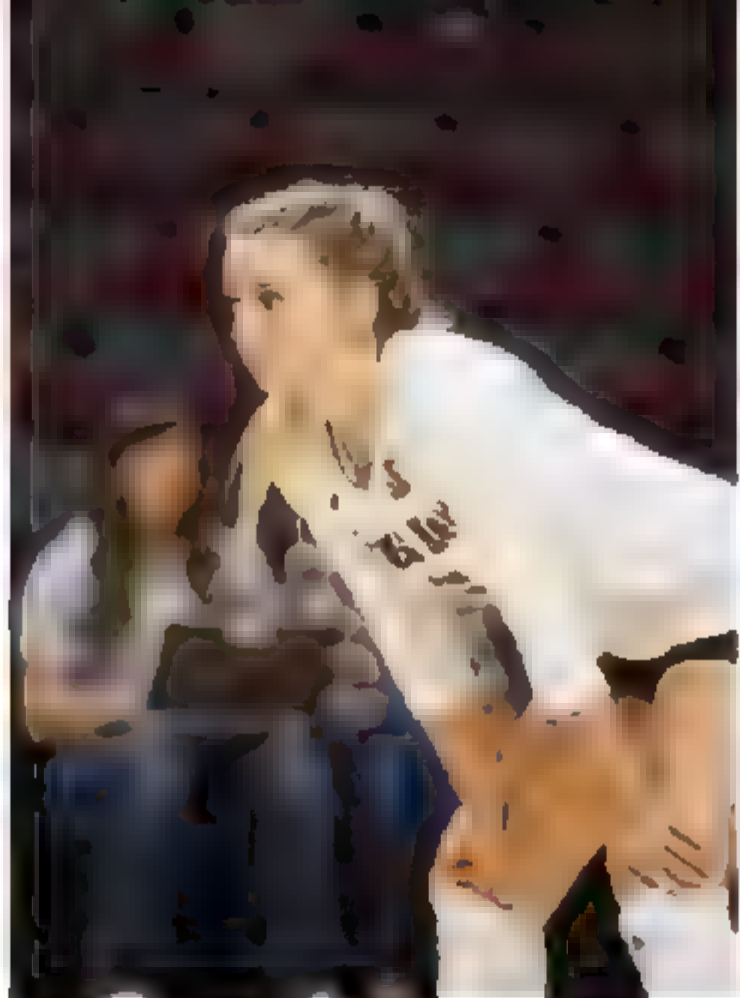








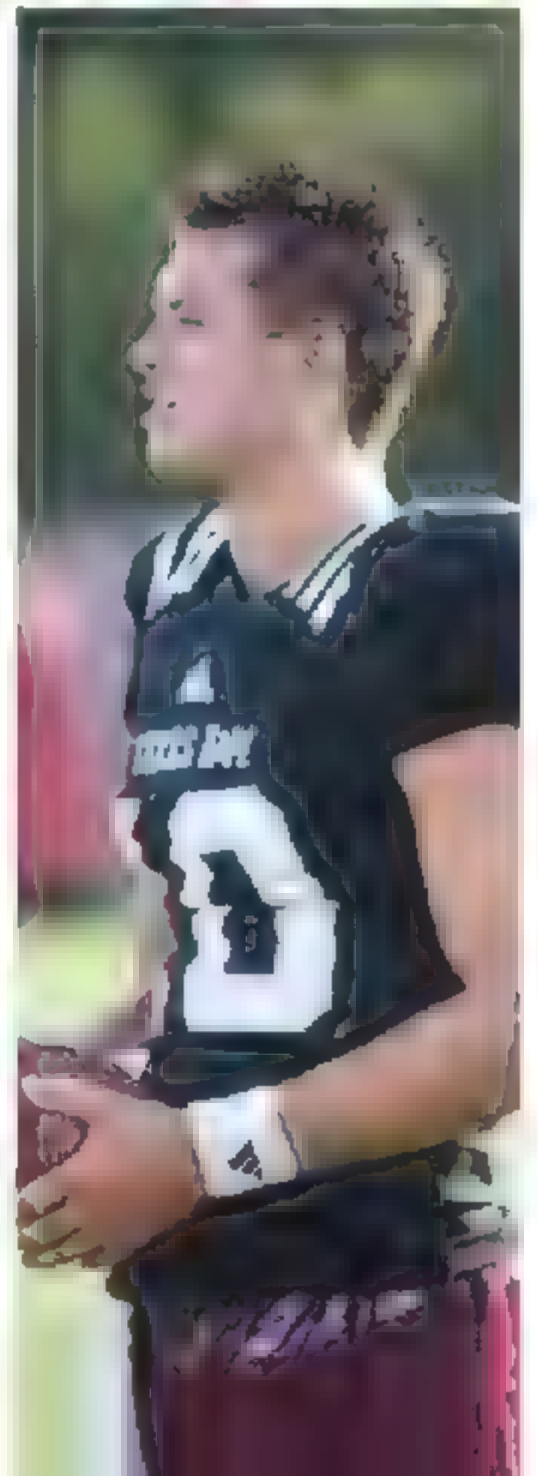
scoreboard













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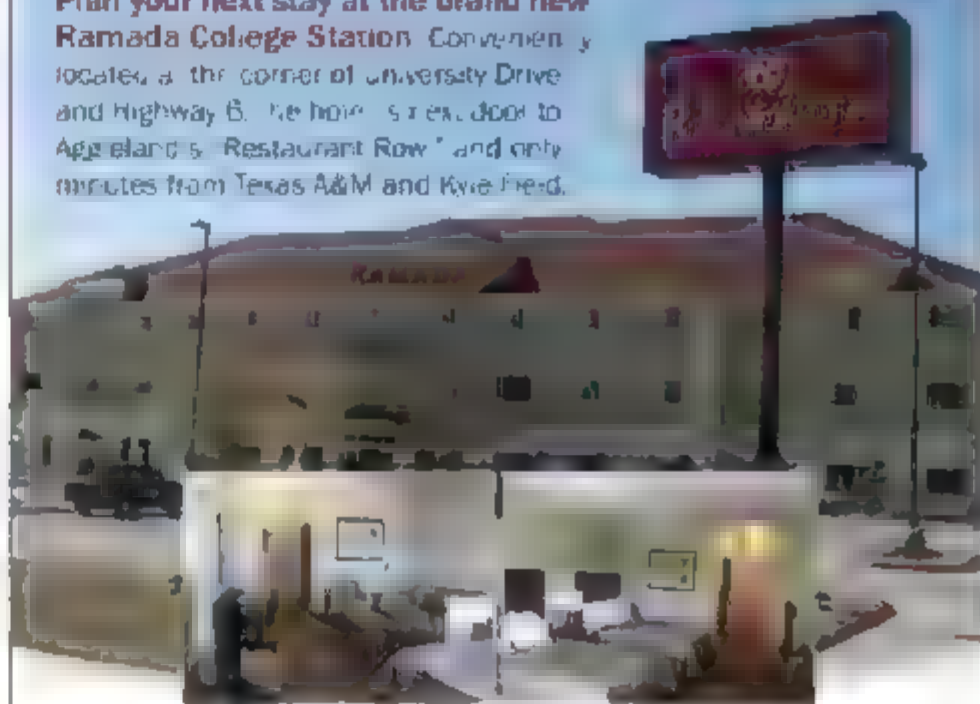
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When Texas A&M entered the SEC, experts across the nation didn't give the Aggies a chance of competing for a championship. At SEC Media Days that summer, Coach Sumlin and the players were basically asked if they were ready to get their tails whipped every weekend. The lack of respect fueled a fire in our players and coaches and put a huge chip on our shoulders that propelled us to one of the best seasons in Aggie football history.

Now, four years later, the experts are again doubting the talent of Texas A&M. The team has been picked to finish as low as sixth in the division by most college prognosticators and so once again, the Aggies have the opportunity to show the conference and the nation just how strong our program has become. This year's schedule and low expectations could be the perfect recipe for the Aggies to have another amazing season.

This fall opponents will walk into the newly redeveloped Kyle Field in front of a raucous 12<sup>th</sup> Man and what is sure to be one of the most intimidating atmospheres in college football. After four years of stockpiling SEC caliber athletes, Coach Sumlin and new defensive coordinator John "The Chief" Chavis are ready to introduce the 2015 Fightin' Texas Aggie Football Team.

Kyle Allen, who started five games for the Aggies last year, has been named the starter in the Aggie's first game against Arizona State. The true sophomore quarterback was named MVP of the 2014 Liberty Bowl and is prepared to lead the team with grace again this season. With a year and a half under his belt, Allen enters the season with confidence and expects to build on last year's success.

Coach Spavital has another weapon at his disposal in freshman phenom Kyler Murray. Don't be surprised to see this talented

quarterback get early playing time as he will be hard to keep on the bench with his unique set of skills and his ability to win. Murray has only been on campus since this summer and once he learns the system, he will be a difference maker in Sumlin's offense.

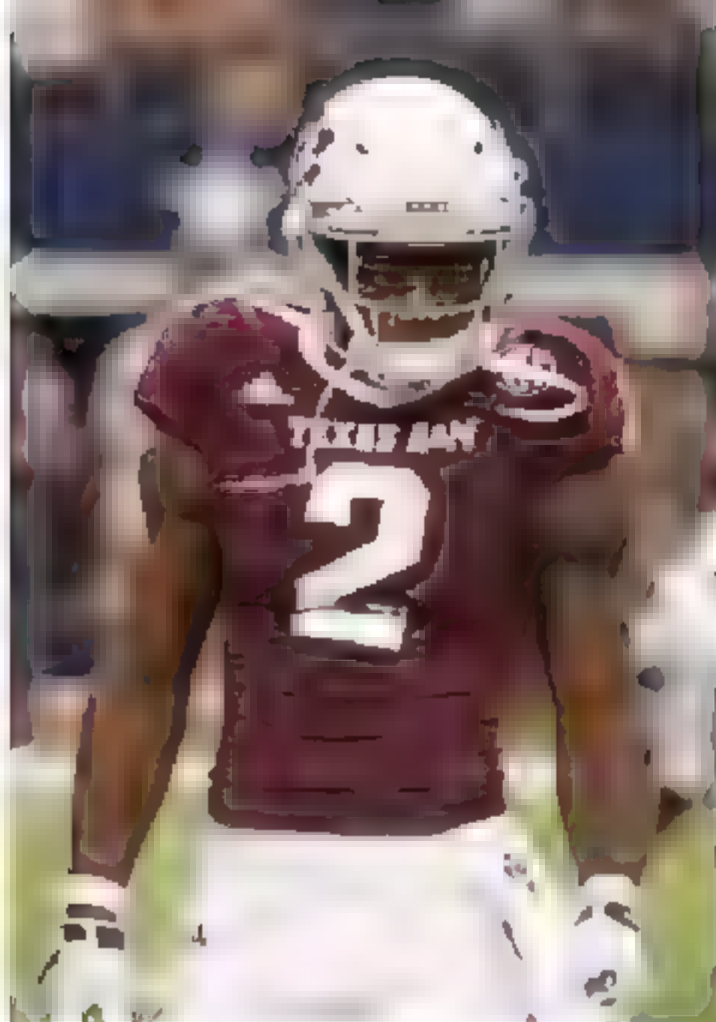
The running game is one of the things the coaching staff wanted to make more of an emphasis this fall. To add another dimension to the Aggie offense, Coach Dave Christensen was hired. Tra Carson is prepared to be a workhorse for the Aggies again this season. After rushing for 133 yards in the Liberty Bowl, Carson proved he has the ability to produce big yards and to be an every down back. James White had another strong spring and plans to have a breakout season under Christensen's new running attack.

Clearing the way for the Aggies new running game will be returning starters Mike Matthews, Joseph Cheek and Germain Ifedi. On the left side of the line look for Jeremiah Stuckey to play left guard and Avery Gennessy to start at left tackle. Instead of making himself available for the draft, Ifedi came back and hopes another year with the team will vault him up into a first round selection in next years NFL Draft.

The Aggie receiving corps is one of the most talented groups of players in the country. Under the direction of new receivers coach, Aaron Moorehead, this group has blossomed into an elite group of pass catchers. The four starters heading into the ASU game are predicted to be Ricky Seals Jones, Josh Reynolds, Speedy Noil and newcomer, Christian Kirk. We expect a lot of yards and a bunch of touchdowns from this group.

Easily the biggest story of the offseason was the addition of Coach John Chavis. Fans are eager to see what magic he has





been able to do in such a short time. If spring practice and fall camp are any indication, expect our defense to be much improved from last year.

Starting with the two defensive ends, Myles Garrett and Daeshon Hall, whom Chavis said could be the "two best defensive ends in college football." Julien Obioha moves over to tackle along with Alonzo Williams and true freshman, Daylon Mack, should get plenty of early playing time as he is a huge kid with a great burst of speed.

Injuries plagued our linebackers in the spring but look for the experience these men gained as freshmen last year to benefit them in Chavis' new system. Otaru Alaka, Josh Walker and Shaan Washington anchor the Aggie linebacker corps. Newcomer, Riley Garner and returning from last year's injury, AJ Hilliard, should also figure into the mix. Richard Moore and Claude George should also see playing time as Chavis mixes up the rotation.

Cornerbacks are one of the biggest keys to a successful defense and after moving from running back to defensive back at the end of spring drills, Brandon Williams is expected to sure up the position this fall. De'Vante Harris is excited to be under a new system and looks to thrive under "The Chief's" watchful eye. Nick Harvey and Alex Sezer Jr. will also be rotating in and

should give the Aggies more depth.

Armani Watts has been impressive in camp and Justin Evans will play the back line for the Ags as the safeties should benefit from one of the best defensive lines in the SEC. Justin Dunning and Devonta Burns should also play safety as Coach Joseph tries to get his secondary to increase the number of interceptions this year.

Special teams could be a difference maker for the Aggies this year. Replacing Josh Lambo will be Senior Taylor Bertolet or freshman Daniel LaCamera. Bertolet should be kicking off for the Aggies but the two have competed for field goal kicker through out camp. All SEC Pre-Season team member, Drew Kaser, returns as punter along with backup, Shane Tripucka, who has had a very successful camp. Speedy Noil will return punts again and Christian Kirk will be returning kicks.

Our roster is loaded with talent and the schedule is laid out about as well as you could plan being a member of the SEC Western Division. The first game at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas vs. ASU is a huge hurdle that could decide the direction of this team for the rest of the year. If we can have early success and gain some confidence, this team could prove all of the so-called experts wrong and they could be playing for a championship at the end of the year.



#### 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	8-5
Conference	3-5
Home	3-3
Away	3-2
Neutral	2-0

#### 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/05/15	vs Arizona State
09/12/15	vs Ball State
09/19/15	vs. Nevada
09/26/15	@ Arkansas
10/03/15	vs. Mississippi State
10/17/15	vs Alabama
10/24/15	@ Ole Miss
10/31/15	vs. South Carolina
11/07/15	vs. Auburn
11/14/15	vs. Western Carolina
11/21/15	@ Vanderbilt
11/28/15	@ LSU





Expectations are high for the Sun Devils as they enter their fourth season under head coach Todd Graham. Coming off back-to-back ten-win seasons for the first time since the 1972-73 season, the team's high-octane offense and signature hybrid, attacking defense hold the ingredients to keep the Maroon and Gold in the national conversation all season long. The passing attack, which is anchored by quarterback Mike Bercovich and includes newly converted wide receiver D.J. Foster and a host of explosive weapons, is complimented by a running game centered around sophomores Demario Richard and Kalen Ballage, and a physical offensive line. A group of playmaking linebackers, including Salamo Fiso, Antonio Longino and Lau Moeakiola, an experienced secondary featuring cornerback Lloyd Carrington and safety Jordan Simone, and a well-coached defensive line will look to continue to force turnovers and disrupt opposing offenses.

#### 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/05/15	@ Texas A&M
09/12/15	vs. Cal Poly
09/18/15	vs. New Mexico
09/26/15	vs. USC
10/03/15	@ UCLA
10/10/15	vs. Colorado
10/17/15	@ Utah
10/29/15	vs. Oregon
11/07/15	@ Washington State
11/14/15	vs. Washington
11/21/15	vs. Arizona
11/28/15	@ California



#### 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	10-3
Conference	6-3
Home	5-1
Away	4-2
Neutral	1-0

ARIZONA STATE ATHLETICS

The 2014 season may have ended in a disappointing 5-7 mark for the Ball State football squad, but the Cardinals did win four of their final six games and hope to carry that momentum into this year.

Ball State is a veteran group on the offensive side of the ball at every position except quarterback and running back. All five offensive linemen are returnees from last year, including senior center Jacob Richard who is on the Rimington Trophy fall watch list.

Sophomore Jack Milas is expected to take over the quarterback position full-time after splitting the duty in 2014. Milas will have two excellent outside receivers to throw to in senior Jordan Williams and junior KeVonn Mabon. The duo combined for 115 receptions, 1,460 receiving yards and 11 touchdowns a year ago.

A running back by committee could be implemented to replace Ball State's all-time leading rusher, Jahwan Edwards. Look for sophomore Darian Green, junior Teddy Williamson and possibly true freshman James Gilbert to see action in the backfield.

All-MAC performer Darnell Smith will anchor the defense at tackle & all three starting linebackers from 2014 return to the roster.



#### 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	5-7
Conference	4-4
Home	3-3
Away	2-4
Neutral	0-0

#### 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/15	vs. VMI
09/12/15	@ Texas A&M
09/19/15	@ Eastern Michigan
09/26/15	@ Northwestern
10/03/15	vs. Toledo
10/10/15	@ Northern Illinois
10/17/15	vs. Georgia State
10/24/15	vs. Central Michigan
11/05/15	vs. Massachusetts
11/14/15	@ Western Michigan
11/21/15	@ Ohio
11/28/15	vs. Bowling Green

BALL STATE ATHLETICS





Nevada returns 12 starters and 31 letter winners from last year's team who posted a 7-6 record, went 4-4 in the Mountain West and advanced to the 2014 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl. The Wolf Pack is one of just four teams from outside the power five conferences to advance to nine bowl games in the past 10 years. Nevada's objective for the 2015 campaign will be to extend its bowl streak and compete for a MW title. Texas A&M will be the first SEC opponent Nevada has ever faced. Head coach Brian Polian - in his third season at Nevada - worked under Kevin Sumlin in 2012 as Texas A&M's special teams coordinator and tight ends coach. Although facing an arduous task against the Aggies, Nevada is no stranger to knocking off power five schools as of late, having defeated Washington State in 2014 and Cal in 2012. On offense, the Wolf Pack will rely on senior RB Don Jackson, who rushed for 957 yards last year. When the pack looks to

pass against the Aggies, expect junior WR Hasaan Henderson, standing at 6-foot-5, to be a target. Nevada returns all of its front seven on defense and will expect senior DE Ian Seau - who registered 8.5 sacks last year and is the nephew of the late Hall of Famer Junior Seau - to lead the way against most likely the best offensive line it will face all season.

#### 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/15	vs UC Davis
09/12/15	vs. Arizona
09/19/15	@ Texas A&M
09/26/15	@ Buffalo
10/03/15	vs. UNLV
10/10/15	vs. New Mexico
10/17/15	@ Wyoming
10/24/15	vs Hawaii
11/05/15	@ Fresno State
11/14/15	vs San Jose State
11/21/15	@ Utah State
11/28/15	@ San Diego State



#### 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	7-6
Conference	4-4
Home	3-3
Away	4-2
Neutral	0-1

The Razorbacks should be a strong team again this year. The Hogs won 4 of their last 6 games including a huge 31-7 victory over tu in last year's Texas Bowl. Bret Bielema's teams are big and punishing at the point of attack. Arkansas will have third year quarterback Brandon Allen under center giving them a huge advantage over teams struggling to name a starter. They return two thousand yard rushers in Jonathan Williams and Alex Collins who should again dominate in Bielema's "run it down your throat" rushing attack. The Hogs lost a lot of talents on the defensive side of the ball but Taiwan Johnson returns on the d-line and second year coordinator Robb Smith will fill holes with talented newcomers ready to make their mark for the Razorback defense. If the Hogs can figure out how to win on the road and finally win a few close games they can contend in the SEC West.



#### 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/05/15	vs UTEP
09/12/15	vs. Toledo
09/19/15	vs. Texas Tech
09/26/15	vs. Texas A&M
10/03/15	@ Tennessee
10/10/15	@ Alabama
10/24/15	vs. Auburn
10/31/15	vs UT-Martin
11/07/15	@ Ole Miss
11/14/15	@ LSU
11/21/15	vs Mississippi State
11/27/15	vs. Missouri

#### 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	7-6
Conference	2-6
Home	5-2
Away	1-3
Neutral	1-1





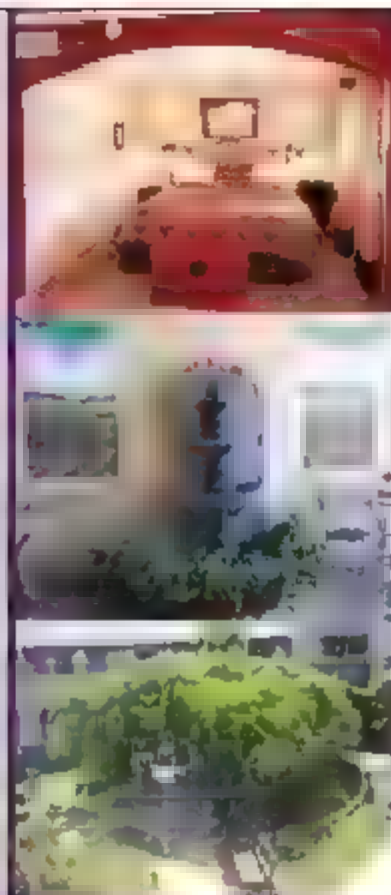
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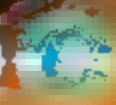
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After an unbelievable season that saw Mississippi State rise to No. 1 in the polls for the first time in school history, the Bulldogs are expected to take a step back with the loss of 15 starters from the 2014 squad. The team boasts one of the most talented and deep wide receiving corps in the SEC this season, and has a legitimate Heisman contender in Dak Prescott at quarterback to get them the ball. Still, the lack of experience on the offensive and defensive lines has many doubting the Bulldogs, with most publications picking them to finish near the bottom of the SEC West. If Mississippi State can find a way to have solid play up front, the Bulldogs could be a surprise team in the SEC West again this season.

#### 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/05/15	@ Southern Miss
09/12/15	vs LSU
09/19/15	vs. Northwestern State
09/26/15	@ Auburn
10/03/15	@ Texas A&M
10/10/15	vs. Troy
10/17/15	vs Louisiana Tech
10/24/15	vs Kentucky
11/05/15	@ Missouri
11/14/15	vs Alabama
11/21/15	@ Arkansas
11/28/15	vs Ole Miss



#### 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	10-3
Conference	6-2
Home	7-0
Away	3-2
Neutral	0-1

Although experts have had a hard time predicting spots 2-7 in the SEC Western division, the Crimson Tide are still the odds on favorite to win the conference. Returning most of their defense and adding even more depth, Coach Saban looks to eliminate the big plays the team gave up last year and keep scores down to avoid shootouts against opponents this fall. The biggest question for Alabama will be who will take the place of Blake Sims under center. At press time, a QB had not been announced and Jake Coker and David Cornwell were battling it out in fall camp to lead the team. Ardarius Stewart and OJ Howard will do their best to replace the big hole left at receiver by Amari Cooper. Lane Kiffin will rely on arguably the best front seven in the game and returning junior running back Derrick Henry to control the ball and wear down opposing defenses. Once again, the Tide is loaded and their goal is to win the SEC and advance to the CFB Playoff.



#### 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/05/15	vs Wisconsin
09/12/15	vs. Middle Tennessee
09/19/15	vs Ole Miss
09/26/15	vs. Louisiana-Monroe
10/03/15	@ Georgia
10/10/15	vs. Arkansas
10/17/15	@ Texas A&M
10/24/15	vs. Tennessee
11/07/15	vs LSU
11/14/15	@ Mississippi State
11/21/15	vs Charleston Southern
11/28/15	@ Auburn

#### 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	12-2
Conference	7-1
Home	7-0
Away	3-1
Neutral	2-1

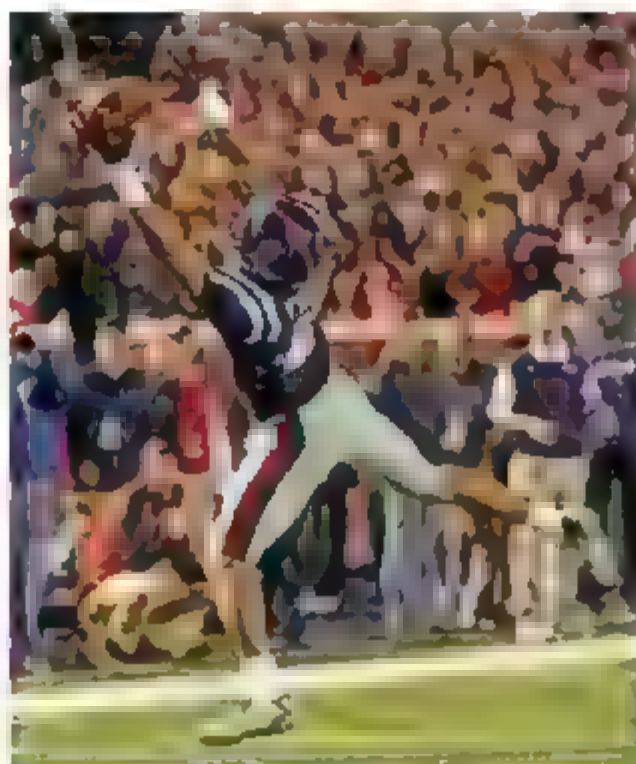




# Ole Miss

## 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

08/28/14	vs. Boise State
09/06/14	@ Vanderbilt
09/13/14	vs. Louisiana-Lafayette
09/27/14	vs. Memphis
10/04/14	vs. Alabama
10/11/14	@ Texas A&M
10/18/14	vs. Tennessee
10/25/14	@ LSU
11/01/14	vs. Auburn
11/08/14	vs. Presbyterian
11/22/14	@ Arkansas
11/29/14	vs. Mississippi State



If the Ole Miss football program's path to success was a race, it would look more like a quick sprint than a marathon. In three years, under the leadership of head coach Hugh Freeze, Ole Miss has ascended to one of the premier college programs in the country, perhaps faster than anyone would have thought.

Freeze teaches his offense to run up-tempo and likes his defense to play with speed. Apparently, he teaches them to win fast, too. Last year's team was ranked in the top 25 the entire season, rising as high as No. 3 in the polls after dispatching No. 1 Alabama in the program's first win over the nation's top-ranked team. That was the program's highest national ranking since 1964. After defeating four teams that finished with 10 or more wins (Alabama, Boise State, Memphis, Mississippi State), the Rebels capped the year with a selection to the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, one of the inaugural New Year's Six bowl games.

Ole Miss returns 18 total starters from last year's squad, including the entire offensive line and the majority of its defense that ranked No. 1 in the country. If the Rebels solidify their quarterback competition and running game, they could be as dangerous as any team in the country, thanks to the quality of their defense.

## 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	9-4
Conference	5-3
Home	6-1
Away	2-2
Neutral	1-1

After three consecutive 11-win seasons, New Year's Day bowl wins and Top-10 finishes, the South Carolina football team experienced a blip in 2014 posting a 7-6 record. USC will have a decidedly different look in 2015 with several new faces. But with 43 lettermen returning including 13 starters and a plethora of talented newcomers, the cupboard is far from bare.

Leading the offense is preseason All-America candidate Pharoh Cooper. Cooper, a first-team All-SEC wide receiver and the MVP of the 2014 Independence Bowl, logged over 1,100 receiving yards a year ago. The backfield features the hard-running tandem of Brandon Wilds and David Williams, both of who are capable of putting up big numbers. The offensive line is anchored by fifth-year senior tackle Brandon Shell.

Defensively, the strength of the squad is in the line-backing corps, led by juniors, Skai Moore and Jonathan Walton. The defensive line should be improved with the infusion of several junior college transfers, led by defensive end Marquavius Lewis. The secondary was very young a year ago and looks to be better with another year of seasoning and the addition of safety Isaiah Johnson, a graduate transfer from Kansas.



## 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	7-6
Conference	3-5
Home	4-3
Away	2-3
Neutral	1-0



## 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/15	vs. North Carolina
09/12/15	vs. Kentucky
09/19/15	@ Georgia
09/26/15	vs. UCF
10/03/15	@ Missouri
10/10/15	vs. LSU
10/17/15	vs. Vanderbilt
10/31/15	@ Texas A&M
11/07/15	@ Tennessee
11/14/15	vs. Florida
11/21/15	vs. Citadel
11/28/15	vs. Clemson





## 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/05/15	vs Louisville
09/12/15	vs Jacksonville State
09/19/15	@ LSU
09/26/15	vs Mississippi State
10/03/15	vs. San Jose State
10/15/15	@ Kentucky
10/24/15	@ Arkansas
10/31/15	vs Ole Miss
11/07/15	@ Texas A&M
11/14/15	vs Georgia
11/21/15	vs Idaho
11/28/15	vs Alabama

Auburn football is in the Top-10 in numerous preseason rankings, and the reason is simple. Fast and physical, the Tigers are poised for another exciting season, as Coach Gus Malzahn's high-octane offense and the return of Will Muschamp as defensive coordinator, brings his trademark intensity to that side of the ball.

Junior, Jeremy Johnson, will take the controls of the Malzahn offense this season after two years as an understudy to Nick Marshall. His top target will be preseason All-American D'haquille Williams, a senior who led Auburn with 45 catches for 730 yards last season.

In the backfield, junior Peyton Barber, sophomore Roc Thomas and junior college transfer Jovon Robinson will look to replace SEC rushing leader Cameron Artis-Payne. Senior cornerback Jonathan Jones is a preseason all-star on many award lists. Returning with Jones in the secondary are experienced veterans Joshua Holsey, Johnathan Ford, Nick Ruffin, Stephen Roberts and T.J. Davis. Two three-year starters return at linebacker in seniors Kris Frost and Cassanova McKinzy.



Up front, pass rusher Carl Lawson is back after a season missed by injury. Montravius Adams, DaVonte Lambert and Gmel President are the most experienced of the returners, who figure to contribute on the defensive line.

## 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	8-5
Conference	4-4
Home	6-1
Away	2-3
Neutral	0-1

Western Carolina, a member of the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), is coming off its best season in over a decade. Under guidance of head coach Mark Speir, the Catamounts to a 7-5 record in 2014, the program's first winning regular season since 2005. With one of its most experienced teams in recent memory returning to the gridiron, excitement and expectations are high in Cullowhee, N.C.

WCU's roster includes 15 seniors including nine on offense and six on defense.

Senior QB Troy Mitchell, who appeared on STATS' preseason watch list for the 2015 FCS Offensive Player of the Year, leads the Catamounts' spread, read-option offense.

WCU's offensive weapons include a two-headed running attack with senior tailback – and Academic All-America selection in 2014 – Darius Ramsey and sophomore all-purpose back, Detrez Newsome. The talented wide receiving corps boast two receivers that have posted double-digit TD receptions in consecutive years in redshirt senior Karnorris Benson & redshirt junior Spearman Robinson.



Defensively, the Catamounts have six seniors that should factor into starting and receive ample playing time. Senior DB, Sertonuse Harris, is WCU's leading returner in tackles while junior DB, Trey Morgan, who has started all 24 career games, paced the SoCon with six interceptions including one at Alabama a year ago.

## 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	7-5
Conference	5-2
Home	5-1
Away	2-4
Neutral	0-0



## 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

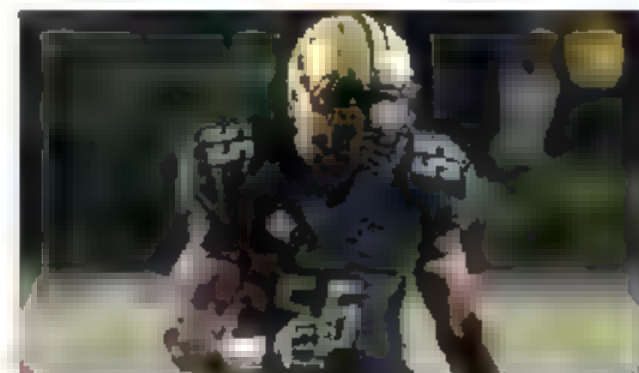
09/05/15	vs Mars Hill
09/12/15	@ Citadel
09/19/15	@ Tennessee
09/26/15	OPEN
10/03/15	vs. Presbyterian
10/10/15	vs. Mercer
10/17/15	@ Wofford
10/24/15	vs. Samford
10/31/15	@ Chattanooga
11/07/15	vs. Furman
11/14/15	@ Texas A&M
11/21/15	@ VMI





#### 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/15	vs. Western Kentucky
09/12/15	vs. Georgia
09/19/15	vs. Austin Peay
09/26/15	@ Ole Miss
10/03/15	@ Middle Tennessee
10/17/15	@ South Carolina
10/24/15	vs. Missouri
10/31/15	@ Houston
11/07/15	@ Florida
11/14/15	vs. Kentucky
11/21/15	<b>vs. Texas A&amp;M</b>
11/28/15	@ Tennessee



#### 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	3-9
Conference	0-8
Home	3-4
Away	0-4
Neutral	0-1

STEVIE FRAVITZ

Another SEC team heading into the season without a clear front-runner at quarterback is the LSU Tigers. Anthony Jennings and Brandon Harris split snaps in the spring and only time will tell who will get the nod when the team takes the field in September. In the backfield, Les Miles can rely on talented sophomore Leonard Fournette who is even bigger and stronger than last year. One of the nations best at the position, teams will have to find a way to stop the talented back. Thanks to the Aggies, LSU has a new defensive coordinator in Kevin Steele who will need to find a way to limit scoring so the offense that has struggled to score big points can produce enough to win. Tre'Davious White leads the defense, which will have to fill some holes while learning a new defensive scheme.

# LSU



#### 2014-2015 RECORD

Overall	8-5
Conference	4-4
Home	5-2
Away	2-2
Neutral	1-1

#### 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/05/15	vs. McNeese State
09/12/15	@ Mississippi State
09/19/15	vs. Auburn
09/26/15	@ Syracuse
10/03/15	vs. Eastern Michigan
10/10/15	@ South Carolina
10/17/15	vs. Florida
10/24/15	vs. Western Kentucky
11/07/15	@ Alabama
11/14/15	vs. Arkansas
11/21/15	@ Ole Miss
11/28/15	<b>vs. Texas A&amp;M</b>

STEVE FRAVITZ



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INTERVIEW WITH  
**MARK WEAVER**





**AI: First of all, congratulations on your promotion to head coach.**

**Mark:** Well thank you very much!

**AI: Tell our readers about your road to where you are now.**

**Mark:** It's been quite a journey here. I can remember my days being recruited by Coach Kent. I was from Shreveport, LA. It was kind of a funny story how it all started out. My high school friend of mine was interested in Texas A&M and actually Texas and I didn't know much about either one. Being from Louisiana if you're in athletics your going to go to LSU. So it was kind of a last minute thought I had gotten some questionnaires at the time from Coach Kent. So at the last minute I showed up on campus and kind of caught Coach Kent off guard. We showed up one day at their practice and we're sitting up in the stands and during the middle of practice Coach Kent looks up and starts talking to us, just a friendly guy, I had never actually met him. He asks "So where are you from?" I said Shreveport Louisiana. He said "Oh my goodness there's a really good tennis player from Shreveport. And I said oh really what's his name? Coach Kent says "Mark Weaver" and I said I'm Mark Weaver! So Coach Kent immediately stops everything and runs up into the stands and we meet and everything just kind of happened like that. I was very unsure of where I was going at the time. I had visited LSU, Ole Miss, Rice and Wake Forrest on my visits. I hadn't been to Texas A&M yet and I came here and I fell in love with the school and Coach Kent became like a second dad to me almost in a way. That's how it all started. I can still remember vividly my senior year being on the court one at practice and it was a chilly fall day if I remember correctly. I remember looking at that big white satellite dish, we had several of them at the old stadium. I can still remember thinking I want to be the coach here one day! Things kind of eventually fell into place. I went and played the circuit for a few years. I never really planned on moving back. I really didn't know what I was going to do. At the time Briarcrest Country Club contacted me and said there was a head tennis pro job available and asked if I would be interested. I came in and the deal was just too good to pass up and I ended up being the head pro there for seven and a half years and I was Bobby's (Kleinecke) volunteer coach most of that time. Then I fortunately convinced Bobby to hire me and I started late that first year in October. Fortunately Howard (Joffe) kept me on when he got here and promoted me to the Associate Head Coach. We've had great success over the recent years and fortunately Marcy (Girton) and Eric (Hyman) have entrusted me to take over the reigns. So here I am talking to you! (laughs)

**AI: What was the player's reaction to you being named head coach?**

**Mark:** I think they really spoke up to Marcy and Eric as well and let them know that they really wanted me to be the guy, the head coach. Howard was always very gracious as presenting us as co-coaches. I mean everyone knew that he was the boss but he was always gracious in that. The girls saw me the same way, they all knew Howard was the head coach but they expressed to Marcy that they looked at us as equals. Everything we did we did together. Howard definitely deserves the majority of the credit but the girls from everyone I've heard they really all spoke up and expressed my qualities and the reasons why they thought I should be the head coach. And it all worked out where I did get

the job and all the girls decided to stay and also our new player coming in that's an excellent player. So we have everyone back plus a very, very good player added to an already good team

**AI: Have you named an assistant?**

**Mark:** Yes Patrick Sullivan. I couldn't be more excited. It's kind of a neat story Patrick's actually an Aggie. He was in the corps here and was a Reveille handler. He was a volunteer coach during the Tim Cass days. That's kind of how he got started. He went off and was an assistant at Arkansas and an assistant at SMU. Brought Steven F Austin as a head coach from nowhere to the 30's in the national rankings. Then he moved over to the University of Houston as the head coach and got them up to ranked number 21 from an unranked team and had two or three excellent players on his team there. One of them won our regional this past season and the other one made it to the semi-finals or the finals. That's saying a lot when you have Texas A&M, Texas, Baylor and TCU and two kids from Houston beat just about everyone in the region. He's a great international recruiter, which I'll take the help there. It's not an easy process to get those internationals into school. So I think he's really going to help there.

**AI: How do your responsibilities change moving from Associate Head Coach to Head Coach?**

**Mark:** It will definitely be me as the final say so on things like managing the girls, the recruiting and the scheduling. Now Patrick will definitely be heavily involved in the recruiting but it will be me that has the final say so on that. Howard would always let me give lots of input but he was the one that made the final decision and now those decisions will be up to me. I think the girls will see me a little differently now. I think the job responsibility duties are probably no different than what I've always done except now I'm the one with the final say so (laughs) and the final decision making at the end.

**AI: You and Coach Joffe lead this program to the National Championship match. How important was it to hire from within and keep this program on the same path?**

**Mark:** Yeah, I don't want to change a lot of things. We've had a recipe for success. We've finished top 10 three years in a row. We were about half an inch from winning the national title, so I would be foolish to come in and make drastic changes. I'm going to try and keep the same mentality and same mindset; there might be a few minor things I might change, but basically, Howard and I were always on the same page. We would always try to speak with the same message to everyone. The nice thing is that we still have three girls left from the team that advanced to the National Final match with Stanford. I think they will be great leaders as seniors. They have experienced just about everything. We won the conference and almost won the national title. So, they've been a part of that and, hopefully, they can help me help the younger ones to understand things and know what it's all about.



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## Sailing Club

BY ROB HAVENS '88

The Sailing Club began in 1990 after a group of competitive sailors in the A&M Sailing Club approached the Department of Recreational Sports about becoming an official Sport Club. The goals were to get funding from the university and to bond together students who share a love for competitive sailing. Those dedicated sailors began recruiting and training competitive-minded sailors, and within a year the club was an official part of the Sport Clubs Association.

Erin Hawk, the current president, grew up in a family of racing sailors. She got her start at a young age when she would help her parents on their 18' keel-boat during races. Erin competed on the youth circuit and went on to compete at the national level in high school. She told AI that there is a wide range of experience levels on the current Texas A&M sailing squad. With a team of roughly 20-25 members, about half the members on the team have some experience before joining. This experience can range from taking a small dingy out once as a child

to racing on the Texas Sailing Association youth circuit. Most of the people with experience who join the club have a small amount of sailing experience but very little racing experience. "We do not require that our new members have experience, and we are happy to teach them everything we know," Hawk said.

The team practices Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Lake Bryan and competes almost every weekend. Their three main rivals are Tulane, Texas A&M at Galveston, and UT. Last spring the team won a regatta in New Orleans against three other well-respected teams. Next spring the team will compete in two qualifiers with the

hopes of advancing to Nationals. Erin told us that, so far, her favorite memory being a part of the group was competing with her twin sister, Tracy, Ataly Asher, Megan Woodring, and Stephanie Meals in the national competition last year at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. "It was a ton of fun to travel so far north and be able to compete against some of the best women in the sport of sailing."

We asked Hawk what her favorite thing about being on the team is, and she responded, "I've loved meeting so many amazing people. Getting to travel all over the country with my team and compete with some fantastic sailors has been the highlight of my college life!"



## Wrestling Club

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Hard work, dedication and preparation are all important to being successful as a student-athlete in a Sport Club. For some clubs, the amount of time spent preparing exponentially surpasses the time spent actually participating in the sport. For student-athletes in the Wrestling Club, the time and dedication put in before the weigh-in can be just as, if not more, important than the seven minutes competing on the mat.

Club members have to watch what they eat and sometimes have to burn off extra pounds before stepping on the scale. Club president Will Sever

told us that being a great wrestler requires extreme mental fortitude, whether it's cutting weight leading up to tournaments or the overall grind of seven-minute matches done repeatedly throughout the day. Sever says that he's often heard collegiate wrestling matches being referred to as "7 minutes of hell," due to how taxing a single match can be on the wrestler's body.

In tournament competition, a wrestler may compete up to five times in a single day. "Having participants willingly withdraw from competition because their physical limit has been reached is not uncommon," said Will. "In order to win, the best wrestlers push themselves above and beyond that limit."

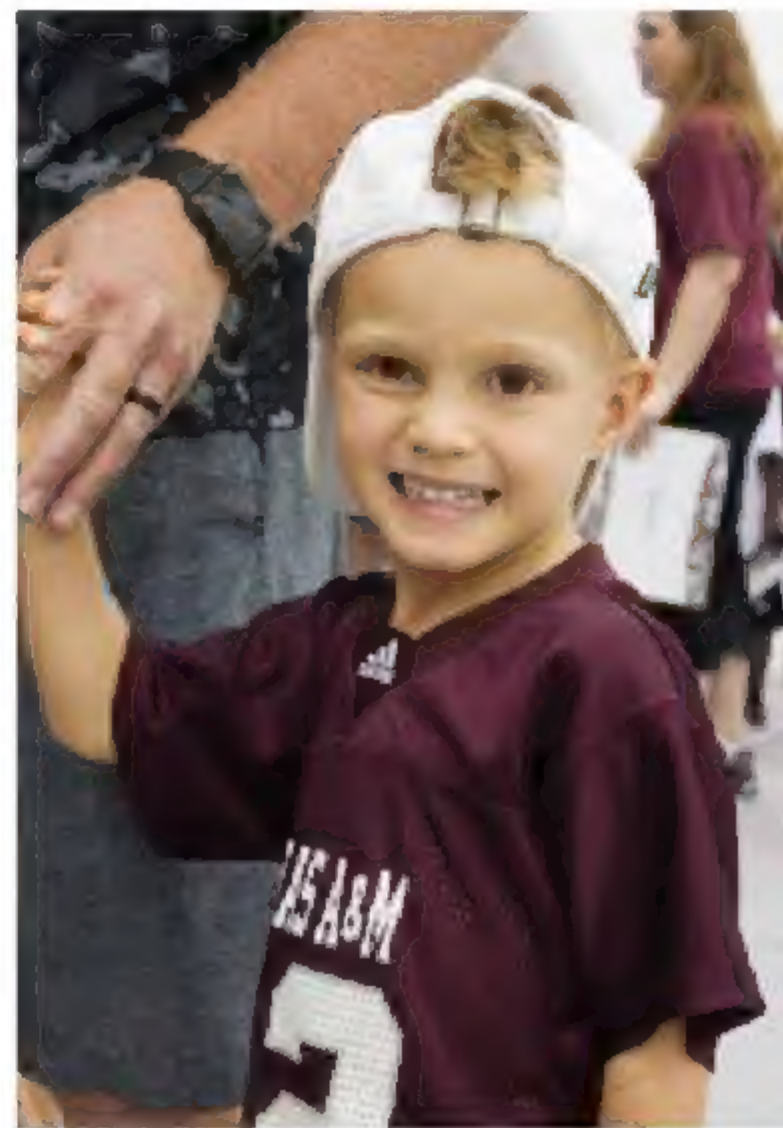
This is Sever's tenth year to compete in the sport. He told AI that the team ranges from new members that have no experience to veteran wrestlers who love the sport and have a passion to compete. When Sever joined the team just three years ago, the size dynamic of the group was much smaller. He said it wasn't uncommon to only have five or six guys at a practice and only four members that went to the conference tournament. Currently, there are seventeen members that compete in at least one event at each competition, including nine who competed at conference.

Since joining the team, Will has seen the team grow into the successful and well-respected group that they are today. After finishing one-hundredth in the nation last year, the team improved to the mid thirties last season. Sever's favorite part about being on the team is, "the feeling of family I get from spending so much time practicing, traveling and competing with the same guys for six months out of the year."



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